

### Remarks

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,449,291 of *Burns et al.* ("*Burns*").

Claims 9-15 are allowed.

Claims 16-24 are withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 is not anticipated by *Burns* because *Burns* does not disclose a master clock having means for transferring a timing signal on a timing signal path and means for transferring a time-stamp via a network both in response to a time event as claimed in amended claim 1. Instead, *Burns* discloses a control unit with a master clock that transfers a time-stamp signal to a transceiver (*Burns*, col. 4, lines 20-24) via a coaxial cable (*Burns*, Figs 5 and col. 8, lines 65-67). Applicant submits that whether the time-stamp signal of *Burns* is deemed a time-stamp or a timing signal, it is transferred via the same coaxial cable. In contrast, amended claim 1 includes a timing signal path and a separate network that carry a timing signal and a time-stamp, respectively.

Moreover, *Burns* does not disclose a slave clock having means for receiving a timing signal via a timing signal path and means for receiving a time-stamp via a network and having means for adjusting a local time in the slave clock in response to the timing signal and the time stamp as claimed in amended claim 1. As shown above, *Burns* does not a timing signal path and a separate network that carry a timing signal and a time-stamp, respectively, as claimed in amended claim 1. Instead, *Burns* teaches adjusting a clock in a cable modem 500 in response to timestamp signals carried on the same coaxial cable. (See Figs 5 and 10 of *Burns*). For example, *Burns*

discloses a cable modem 500 that receives signals via a coaxial cable input 505 (Fig. 5 of *Burns*) from a headend 200 (*Burns*, col. 8, lines 65-67). *Burns* teaches that the signals from the headend 200 received via the coaxial cable input 505 are provided to a signal processor 553 in the cable modem 500 (Fig. 5 of *Burns*) and that the signal processor 553 obtains timestamps from the coaxial input (*Burns*, col. 12, lines 61-66). *Burns* teaches that the timestamps received via the coaxial input 505 are used in the cable modem 500 to adjust its local clock. (*Burns*, col. 11, lines 23-57). In contrast, the slave clock of amended claim 1 adjusts its local time in response to a timing signal received via a timing signal path and a separate time-stamp received via a network.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the distributed system of amended claim 1 that includes a timing signal path and a separate network between a master clock and a slave clock and that adjusts the local time in the slave clock in response to a timing signal carried on the timing signal path and a time-stamp carried on the network is not anticipated by the cable modem of *Burns* that adjusts its local time in response to timestamps carried on the same coaxial cable.

Given that claims 2-4 and 7-8 depend from amended claim 1, it is submitted that claims 2-4 and 7-8 are not anticipated by *Burns*.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1078 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3-28-05

By: \_\_\_\_\_

*Paul H. Horstmann*

Paul H. Horstmann  
Reg. No.: 36,167